should allow some of the co-operative societies to deposit their funds in some reliable private bank instead of in the Imperial Bank of India.

The subordinate officers of the Income Tax Department were still causing much trouble to merchants. To mention only one of their mischiefs, they were making assessments in the most arbitrary fashion.

The Judicial Department should be re-organised. The question of laws delays particularly should be handled soon.

DEWAN'S REPLY:—Mr. Eapen, you made several suggestions for the improvement of the conditions of commerce, industry and agriculture in the State. In the matter of the railway, I quite agree with you that if there is no railway extension, there will be no justification for maintaining a large railway staff once the Trivandrum extension is over. That is a matter which will come up for consideration after the present construction is completed.

You then referred to an economic conference. I do not quite know how that can function, or in what direction work profitably. We shall pass over the Economic Development Board for the time being, and go on to the State Bank to which you referred so frequently. I do not think it is necessary for me to say more than that there is no such thing as a State Bank in Travancore. There is a private joint stock bank which is receiving some aid from Government. And one of the ideas Government had when this institution came into being was, that it should be a central bank which will help other banks in the State. You cannot condemn this particular bank at present because it is still in its infancy. I will have enquiries made on the question of affording recognition to some of the higher class banks already existing in the State.

Then you referred to the working of the income tax law. Income tax in every country where it operates, is looked upon as a nuisance, and I do not think Travancore could be made unique in this matter.

The question of laws delays is engaging the attention of Government.

177. Cottage industries and the economic up-lift of the poor classes.

REV. J. E. KESARI (*Member, Nominated*) said that Travancore could not easily become an industrial country. The reports on the various experiments made by the Department of Industries were as full of negatives as a photographer's studio. That was perhaps inevitable. The only practicable way to secure the development of the country lay in improving the condition of the agriculturists, whose indebtedness and poverty were well-known.

The introduction of suitable cottage industries was the best means of helping the poor agriculturists. Cotton-spinning and weaving could, for instance, be successfully developed as cottage industries. Spinning and weaving were once widely prevalent in South Travancore. The necessary cotton could be grown in the country. Making of

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grass and palm-leaf mats was another industry which bade fair to thrive in the country, as also the making of cane-furniture. Made artistically these articles were sure to win a very wide market. Apiculture and dairy-farming were two other home-industries which could be developed very easily. The Bee Expert employed at present by Government was little known among the rural population. His work should be done on a more extensive scale. Depots for the distribution of bee-hives at nominal cost should be established all over the country. These depots should also gather for a fair price all the honey which the producers were willing to sell. As for dairy-farming, the Scindhi and Hallegarh cows in the Government dairy farm could better be sent to the Zoo where more people could see them and come to know about them. Most of the butter consumed in Travancore was coming either from Europe or from Ahamedabad. It was high time that Government took up the question of the live-stock more seriously. They should establish and maintain large pasture lands all over the country and they should consider the question of improving the native breeds.

Another means of improving the condition of the farmer was the organisation of plantations and colonies on the lines suggested by the Unemployment Enquiry Committee. Large tracts of land in healthy localities should be cleared and offered to enterprising bands of immigrants for nominal prices and money should be advanced to the settlers on easy terms in order to help them to start cultivation. Each colony should be given one doctor, two blacksmiths and one for two carpenters, the doctor being maintained at Government expense. An Agricultural Inspector should visit them occasionally and give them advice. They may also be allowed the free use of the fordson tractor at least once.

The State should undertake big public works from time to time so as to provide employment for the poor day-labourers. Some of the old public buildings might, for instance, be renovated.

Above all things, the closing down of the liquor-shops in the State would go a great way to relieve the indebtedness of the poorer classes. The number of such shops should be reduced by 5 per cent every year for the next fifteen years, that is till 75 per cent of them were closed.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kesari, it was a very attractive figure of speech of yours that the Department of Industries contains as many negatives as a photographic studio. I think it is a very apt simile. True, a photographer's negative is of little value if it does not produce a positive. It is equally true that the negative is a pre-condition to the positive. I hope it is the same with the Department of Industries that its negatives are merely antecedents to resultant positives.

You mentioned other matters. In the matter of agriculture, you said that Travancore being essentially an agricultural country, it should be capable of maintaining dairy farms on a large scale. I quite agree with you if you will substitute 'pastoral' for 'agriculture'. Until then, I think that Travancore will have to get butter from Europe or

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Ahamadabad. But the Director of Agriculture has already taken up the question, for demonstration purposes, of a model cattle stall to show how cattle should be kept and stall-fed. You cannot have large pastures all over Travancore because large pasture lands do not exist. As I said, farmers and cattle-owners should begin to realise that they are under an obligation to maintain their cattle and feed them and not turn them loose on the nearest weed and thorn-covered land to brouse on food that is unsuited to their consumption. I suggest that every farmer of the country set aside a portion of his estate to the cultivation of Napier grass or Guinea grass for the feeding of his cattle. That alone will produce an effect on the standard of the cattle of the State.

Then you also dwelt upon the need for settling people upon Government waste land on a nominal price and provide them each with a doctor, a carpenter and a teacher too. That is all very well, Mr. Kesari, in the case of a country with large waste lands and a population which has to be attracted to the land. But Travancore is not so. Our people rush to take up any block of land that becomes vacant for registry at competitive prices. The converse of the actual position of Travancore is what you advocate.

I think these are the more important departments you touched upon.

MEMBER: Excise Department,

DEWAN: Yes, you strongly urged Government to reduce the number of abkari shops by five every year. I hasten to assure you that idea occured to Government some years ago, and they have been reducing the number by five per cent every two years. The Government you see, have anticipated you.

178. Administrative reforms.

MR. A. P. SUBRAHMONYA IYER (*Member, Shencotta taluk*) said that the sub-jail system prevalent in British India should be introduced into Travancore so that the hardships now suffered by under-trial prisoners might be mitigated. He also suggested that agricultural income derived from British India which was assessed to land tax in British India should be exempted from income-tax in Travancore. Lastly, the system of registration and transfer of pattas by sub-registrars on conveyance of properties, which was prevalent in British India, should be introduced into Travancore.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subramonya Aiyar, the question of the custody and care of under-trial prisoners is now under consideration by the Commissioner of Police. But I do not think any change is possible in the manner you suggest, namely, that there should be honorary warders and laymen sentinels. Suitable arrangements are under contemplation.

In regard to exemption from payment of income tax of agricultural income derived from British India which is assessed to land tax in British

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